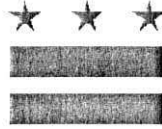


Appendix 3

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Human Services
Youth Services Administration



Marceline D. Alexander
Interim Administrator

February 13, 2004

Mr. Austin A. Anderson
Interim Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
717 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: *Management Alert Report 03-I-011 (Illegal Substances at Oak Hill Youth Center)*

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This correspondence is transmitted to you in response to Management Alert Report 03-I-011 dated January 7, 2004, in which the Office of the Inspector General ("OIG") makes two recommendations to the Youth Services Administration ("YSA") in connection with actions to improve the detection of contraband such as illegal substances at the Oak Hill Youth Center ("OHYC"). Specifically, OIG states as follows:

YSA has taken measures to upgrade the OHYC security force, and that action should improve the detection of contraband such as illegal drugs at OHYC entrances. However, OIG recommends that the YSA Administrator initiate the following actions:

1. Request that the DHS Office of Internal Compliance investigate allegations by staff members that YCOs are transporting illegal substances into OHYC. The Director of DHS should report the results of that investigation to the Inspector General, and to other government entities as may be required by District, Maryland, or federal law; and
2. Explore the feasibility of implementing a canine detection program for illegal substances at OHYC.

YSA appreciates the acknowledgement in your letter that we already have taken affirmative steps to address the presence of illegal substances at OHYC. We agree that the use of Department of

Mr. Austin A. Anderson
Interim Inspector General
February 13, 2004
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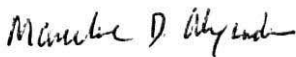
Corrections officers to provide perimeter and sally port security at OHYC on YSA's behalf will assist us in the interdiction of contraband entering the facility.

In response to your specific recommendations, please be advised as follows:

- DHS Director Yvonne D. Gilchrist has directed the Office of Investigations and Compliance to investigate allegations by YSA staff members that YCOs are transporting illegal substances into OHYC. Denise E. Nedab, OIC Chief, may be consulted with respect to the specific timetable for completion of its investigation of these serious allegations.
- As an interim measure, YSA currently is exploring the feasibility of working with the Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD"), the U.S. Park Police, the Anne Arundel County Police, or the Prince George's County Police to use the OHYC as an extension of their respective canine training programs to buttress YSA's drug interdiction measures inside of the facility. These police would be asked to periodically visit OHYC as part of the practical application of their canine training program. The longer range objective is to enter into a memorandum of understanding with MPD to provide OHYC and subsequently, the new Youth Diagnostic Center, with a permanent canine detection program. It is too earlier in these discussions to provide a specific timeline.

Should you have any questions regarding these responses, please contact Clydie A. Smith, Correctional Program Officer, Youth Services Administration, at (240) 456-5005.

Sincerely,


Marceline D. Alexander
Interim Administrator

MDA/cas

cc: Robert C. Bobb, City Administrator
Lori E. Parker, Acting Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders
Yvonne D. Gilchrist, DHS Director
Vanessa Chappell-Lee, DHS Deputy Director
Mark D. Back, YSA Interim Special Counsel
Councilmember Kathleen Patterson, Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary